

Fatboy chokes on its own fluff

Not even Simon Pegg can save this bloated rom-com from itself

filmreview

Run Fatboy Run

Directed by David Schwimmer
Starring Simon Pegg, Thandie Newton, and Hank Azaria

ELIZABETH VAIL
Arts & Entertainment Staff

On paper, Dennis (Simon Pegg) sounds like an irreconcilable character, and his ultimate quest appears to be one of irrational, unreasonable, and unrealistic optimism. As *Run Fatboy Run* opens, Dennis finds himself trapped in his bedroom, sweating like a stuck pig, terrified of the idea of marrying his gorgeous, successful, and visibly pregnant fiancée Libby (Thandie Newton). His idea of a logical solution is to jump out his window and run for the hills.

Five years zoom by, and Dennis now lives in a dreary basement flat, toils as an inefficient security guard for a lingerie store, and hangs out with his friend Gordon (a hilariously off-the-cuff Dylan Moran), the only person in the movie who could possibly challenge Dennis for the title of "Biggest Schmuck in London." His ex, fortunately, is still gorgeous, still successful, and is starting to get cuddly with a gorgeous, successful American named Whit (Hank Azaria in the best shape of his life), who runs marathons for charity. The only contact Dennis gets with Libby is through their five-year-old son Jake.

Oddly enough, it's only now that Dennis begins to fear that his chances with Libby might forever evaporate, so he decides to try to win her love by running the marathon too, hoping to win her forgiveness for running away by, well, running away. Realistically, it's hard to believe that Libby would leave her charming, successful, friendly, and fairly decent boyfriend for the man who left her pregnant at the altar all on the basis of one race, but then

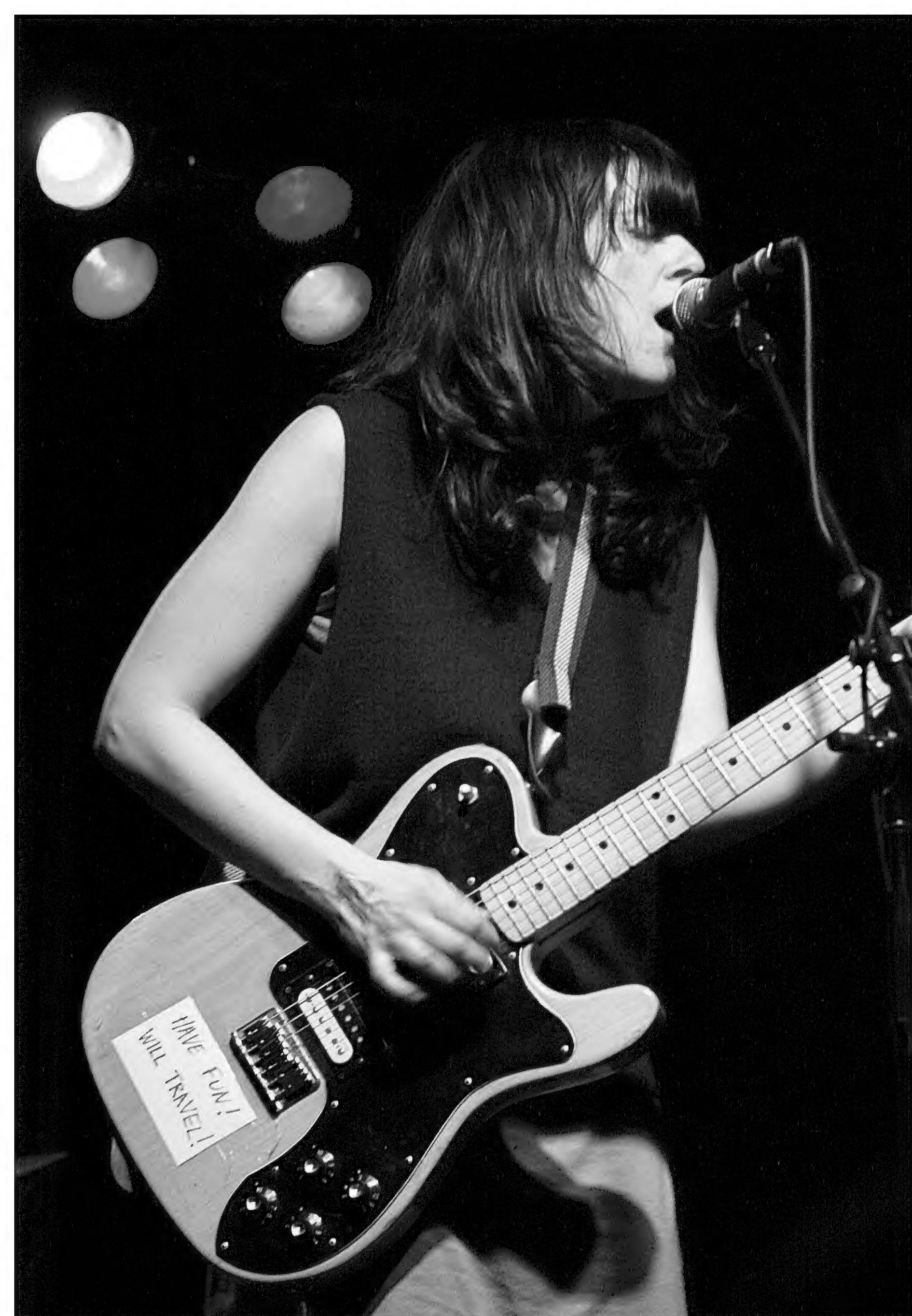
again, this is a romantic comedy you're watching.

This first directorial effort from *Friends* alumni David Schwimmer is a pure-blooded underdog story from start to finish. All of the ever-so-familiar essentials are present: the training montages, the supportive friends, the romantic rival who's not as perfect as he seems. This movie's plot is about as predictable as a game of *Clue*: sure, the characters, setting, and weapons of choice are different, but inevitably, someone will be murdered, er, will run a race, and everyone will learn a lesson in the end.

The only things that keep this film from being absolute hogwash are the actors. Simon Pegg manages the impossible feat of making Dennis sympathetic with a charming blend of impotent, frustrated humanity. Sure, Dennis lacks backbone, perseverance, and discipline, but as performed by Pegg, Dennis is a man who knows it, which makes it at least partially believable for him to overcome some of his flaws.

Meanwhile, Moran puts an amusing, cynical spin on the best-friend role—Gordon is a lazy, selfish, and all-round indifferent pal who's helping Dennis because he's bet his life savings on him, but who also wants to see Dennis make up for some of his past mistakes (especially since Libby is Gordon's cousin). Azaria, however, spends most of the film acting as if he hasn't read the last few pages of the script, playing Whit as such a realistically nice guy that when his inevitable eleventh-hour flaws are unearthed, it seems both false and truly unfair.

But even the actors can't completely redeem this piece of unrealistic, if heartfelt, marshmallow fluff. Sure, the underdog winning the day is never as common in real life as it is in film, but the emotional payoff can't occur if the ending isn't at least partly believable. There's so little progress shown between Dennis the loser and Dennis the against all odds winner that the ending comes across as the ultimate *deus ex machina*. *Run Fatboy Run* isn't even worth stopping to see in theatres—even Pegg fans would be advised to keep on running until it comes out on DVD.



INDY RANDHAWA

HAVE GUITAR, WILL PLAY Julie Doiron passed through the Velvet Underground last week.

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—Robert Graves, 1895–1985



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SPORTS

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The good, the bad, and the also-rans of the year

Too busy to watch every home game this year? Don't worry—our third annual sports awards give you everything you need to know

SPORTS STAFF

Drumroll, please

Once again, the Gateway has brought together a distinguished panel of writers and Nobel laureates to determine for you the best and the worst that the Pandas and Bears had to offer this year. At our experts' roundtable:

Robin Collum, this year's sports editor, went to so many games and meets this year that even the kids who wipe the sweat off the floor know her.

Nick Frost, who's destined next year to be the greatest Gateway sports editor of all time, is in his third year writing sports.

A recent edition to the paper's crack reporting team, **Matt Pretty** has been following Alberta teams on an amateur basis for his entire degree. This chap knows what he's talking about. **Pete Yee** may not write a lot, but he's attended so many Alberta games as a photographer that he could probably list every single roster blindfolded.

MVP: Alex Steele

RC: There were a number of outstanding athletes on campus this year, but none made as big an impact for his or her team as Alex Steele did for Bears basketball. In his fifth year, Steele put up huge numbers—he scored 25 points or more in nine separate games, including one 40-point performance against Trinity Western in January. Steele's play was the deciding factor that sent his team to the championship.

NF: "Man of Steele" seems more than apt in this instance, as the Bears guard put up Superman-like perfor-

mances all season in leading Alberta to nationals.

MP: Steele carried the Bears on his back all the way through the Canada West playoffs and into the CIS championships. His Canada West MVP award puts an exclamation mark on an absolutely incredible individual season.

Honourable mentions: Jocelyn Blair (Pandas volleyball volleyball), Aaron Sorochan and Harlan Anderson (Bears hockey)

Coach of the Year: Terry Danyluk

NF: Consider these numbers: Alberta played 38 games this year, both conference and non-conference, and lost only four of them en route to their fifth national title. If you do the math correctly, it's hard to imagine Coach of the Year adding up to anyone other than Terry Danyluk. Given his consistent success, the man must be doing something right.

RC: No team on campus was as dominant as the Bears volleyball squad, and the credit for that rests on Danyluk's shoulders. His team is made up of great athletes, to be sure—there are few CIS coaches who wouldn't give their eye teeth for players like Adam Kaminski, Brock Pehar, and Joel Schmuland—but that's because of Danyluk. He has the ability to attract the best players in Canada to his team—only two members of the 2007/08 squad are from Edmonton—and to make them champions once they're here.

MP: Terry Danyluk is a model of consistency with Bears' volleyball, as well as one of the program's main recruiting tools. Don Horwood deserves a mention for getting his team to nationals when they weren't expected

to come close to that, but Danyluk had his Alberta team at the top all year and had them finish on top as well.

Honourable mention: Don Horwood, for doing what no one thought possible—teaching the Bears basketball team enough discipline to make it to nationals.

**Most underrated athlete:
Jason Fransoo**

NF: Lost in a sea of talented players on the Bears' roster, Jason Fransoo played an integral, albeit underappreciated, role on Alberta's blueline. Fransoo's plus-24 rating—which lead the team—is enough of an indication of his presence on the ice.

RC: Even we hadn't realized how great Fransoo has been for the Bears until we took a closer look at the numbers—and trust us, we pay attention. Because his most significant impact on the team has been in a supporting role—he's in the top five in assists in Canada West—it was easy to overlook.

Honourable mentions: Erin Mason (field hockey) and Neb Aleksic (Bears basketball)

Most overrated: Quade Armstrong

RC: Don't get us wrong—we know that Armstrong was doing the best he could as the Bears' starting quarterback this year. The problem is that his play didn't really merit being the Bears' starting quarterback. There's definite room for improvement in his game.

MP: I think Quade Armstrong was a victim of unrealistic expectations

Team of the Year: Bears volleyball

MP: This is a no-brainer. Bears volleyball was number one in the CIS rankings all season, went 18–2 over the regular season, swept the Can-Am challenge, and finished with a 5–0 playoff run, a Canada West banner, and the national title. Nothing but utter and total domination from start to finish.

NF: Go ahead and raise the banner, boys—you deserve it.

Honourable mention: Bears hockey

Rookie of the Year (male): Jason Fransoo

Rookie of the year (female): tie—Alana Cabana and Lindsay Bergevin

RC: We split this category into two this year because we simply could not decide between these three amazing first-years. Bergevin, though she won a bronze medal in high jump at nationals, is on the list because of one amazing leap—she shattered a 28-year-old U of A record in January by clearing 1.81m at the Golden Bear Open in January.

Pandas hockey forward Cabana was plus-27 in conference play, with 15 goals and 18 assists. She was second in Canada West for points, and tied in fourth for both goals and assists.

Fransoo didn't get the Canada West prize either, losing to teammate Eric Hunter, but he was a huge asset to his team this year. Fransoo was the second-highest-scoring defender in Canada West, but it's his huge number of assist that put him on our list—he helped out on 22 Alberta goals.

Honourable mentions: Hugh O'Neill, Mike Asselstine (wrestling), Marielle TerHart (wrestling), Eric Hunter (Bears hockey)

Most underrated athlete: Jason Fransoo

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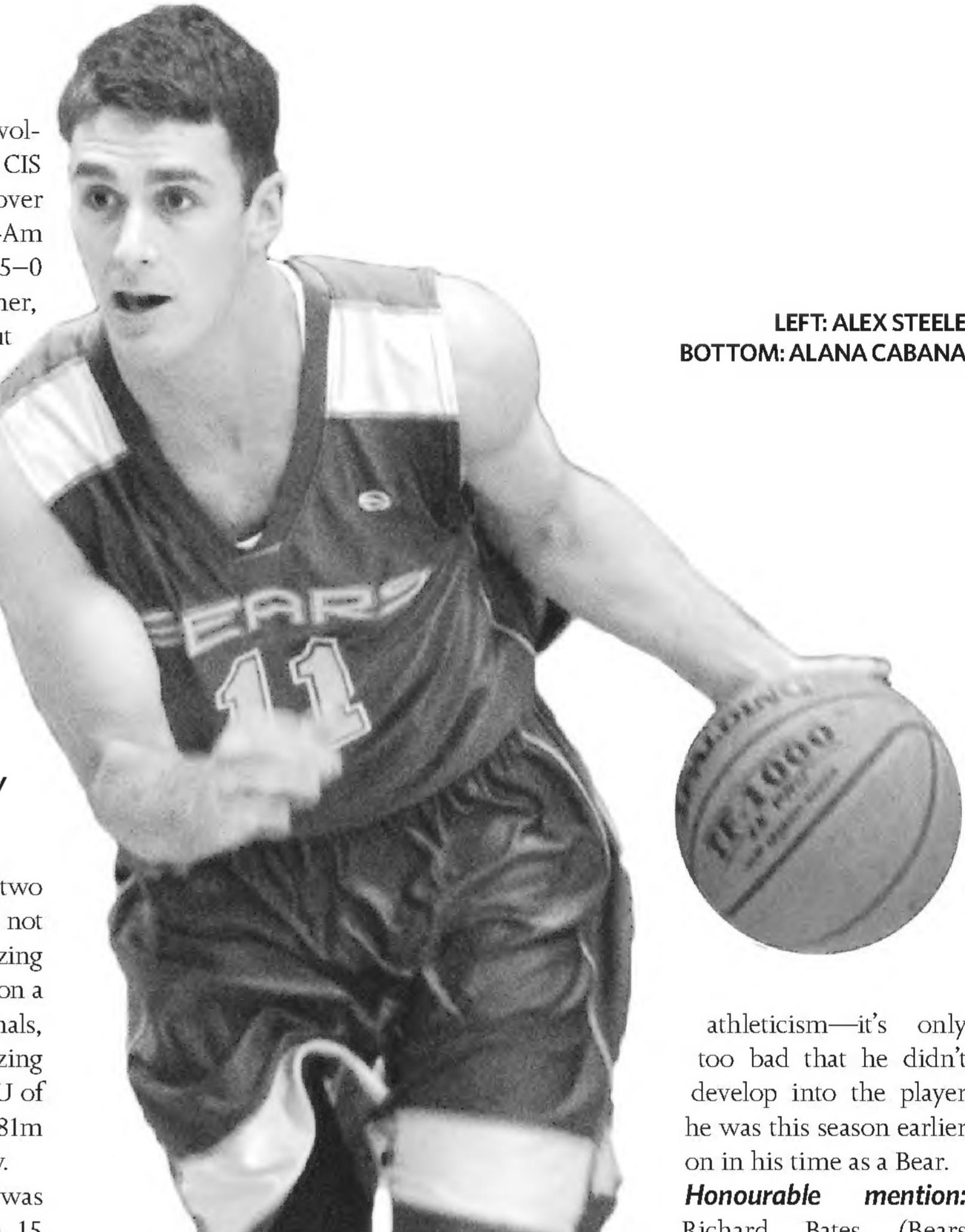
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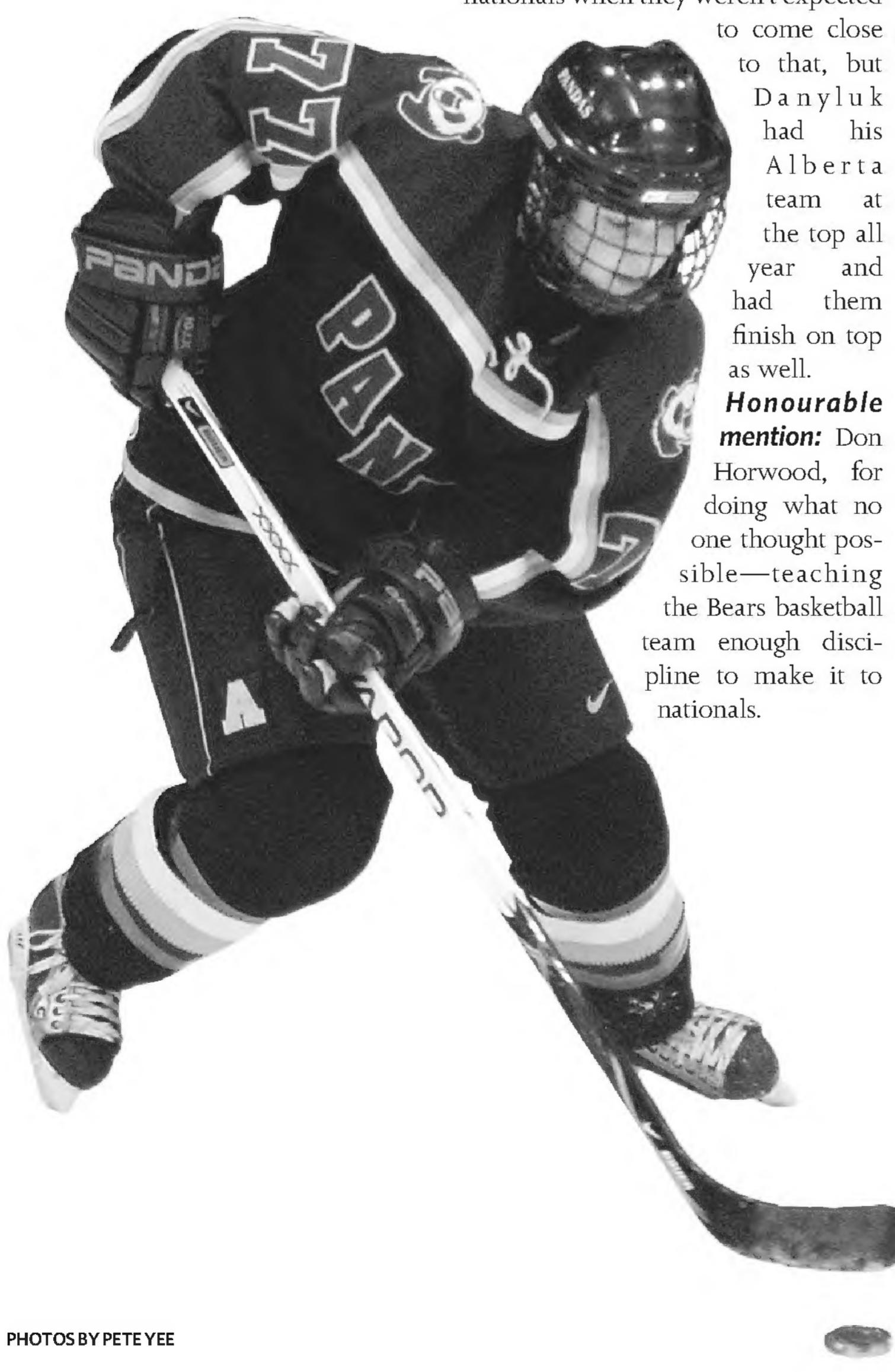
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MP: I think Quade Armstrong was a victim of unrealistic expectations



LEFT: ALEX STEELE
BOTTOM: ALANA CABANA



PHOTOS BY PETE YEE

more than anything—he was the best starting option the Bears had at quarterback this year. The problem was that the Bears' quarterbacking as a whole wasn't at the same level as most Canada West teams. And so Quade, by proxy, was expected to be competitive with players like Teale Orban and John Makie when the unfortunate truth is that he just isn't in the same class as those two, and that's no knock on him.

Most improved athlete: tie—Andrew Parker and Carly McLennan

RC: Carly really stepped up her game this year, helping to fill the void left by Michelle Smith last year. She led the team with 40 steals and an average of 10.3 points per game.

MP: In years past, Andrew Parker could be counted on for a mind-blowing dunk on any given night—but that's about all. This year, though, he showed consistency on both sides of the court, scoring 11.1 ppg and leading the team in three-point percentage. So while he can still throw down with the best of 'em, he's also made it known that he's not just a one-trick pony.

MP: As I remember him from past years, Parker was an okay player with too much showmanship. But he really stepped his game up this year—he was hard-nosed on defence, he made a lot of smart decisions, he was more consistent with his shots, and he still had a couple of dunks, too.

PY: It was about time Parker added a little basketball IQ to his freakish

athleticism—it's only too bad that he didn't develop into the player he was this season earlier on in his time as a Bear.

Honourable mention: Richard Bates (Bears basketball), Dana Vinge (Pandas hockey)

Most improved teams: Bears and Pandas swimming

MP: Both swim teams were ranked in the CIS top ten for much of the season, and they both claimed bronze medals at the Canada West championships. At nationals, both teams improved even more, as the Bears jumped from eighth last year to sixth this year and the Pandas moved all the way up from eleventh to sixth. UBC and Calgary better take notice—Alberta swimming is on the way up.

Honourable mention: Pandas wrestling

Holy shit moment (astonishing in a good way):
Paula Findlay's three national championship appearances

PY: How does your body take that much training and competition and not fall apart? Paula Findlay is the poster child of the dedicated athlete. She was able to make it to three separate national championships in cross country, swimming, and track.

WTF? moment (astonishing in a bad way):
Pandas volleyball lose to UBC at nationals

MP: The first-ranked Pandas volleyball team was up 2–0 on UBC in the national semifinal, but UBC came back and tied the match at two sets each. In the deciding fifth set, Alberta quickly got out to a 6–1 lead, and I thought they had it won. But then they proceeded to give up a 14–1 run to lose the set 15–7 and the match 3–2. Watching the webcast, I nearly put a fist through my computer monitor. I couldn't believe it—that had to be the worst finish to a game, by any team, all year.

Ultimate sports upsets provide sweet surprises for fans



SPORTS STAFF

Group Commentary

For the first time ever, the NCAA men's basketball Final Four is made up completely of number-one seeds. Though there were a couple of surprises, there were no huge upsets in the tournament this year. To make up for that fact, we've collected what we feel to be the greatest sports upsets.

Nick Frost

Although the only places you're likely to hear it come up as one of the biggest upsets would be among Edmonton fans or, at least, in Canadian hockey circles, the Oilers' upset over the Dallas Stars during the 1996/97 playoffs still holds a place in my heart as the biggest—and greatest—upset.

Coming in as the seventh seed after

having spent the previous four years playing mini-stick hockey in the NHL's basement was enough of a challenge—no one thought the Copper and Blue would be able to rise up against Mike Modano and co. However, there were three key moments that defined that series and give the upset its lustre—one of which I was lucky enough to be in attendance for.

Game three at the home saw the Oilers trail the Stars 3–0 deep into the third period, and fans started exiting the building early to try and beat the inevitable parking lot jams. However, just as my dad was signalling to me that we should hit the exit, Doug Weight scored. Then, thinking that was the only goal they would score, my dad began signalling to me again—that is, until Andrei Kovalenko scored. Before we knew it, the puck was going in off Mike Grier and, within a span of 1:56, the Oilers had made a game out of it. When Kelly Buchberger scored in overtime to complete the comeback, the building erupted in a way that this young hockey fan had never experienced before.

And then in game seven Curtis Joseph committed highway robbery on Joe Nieuwendyk and Todd Marchant scored one of the biggest goals in Oiler history—with an unforgettable call by, of all people, Bob Cole—to take the series in seven games. How could this not be considered one of the greatest upsets ever?

Robin Collum

It's impossible to talk about sports upsets anymore without including one of the most recent—the New York Giants' victory over the New England Patriots at this year's Super Bowl. Undefeated in the regular season and playoffs, the Pats were the obvious favourites going into the championship, especially after squeaking by the Giants 38–35 in week 16.

When the two teams met again in Arizona in February, after weeks of buildup—including speculation in the press about whether Tom Brady's ankle was fit to play and whether Eli Manning could live up to his brother's legacy—fans were on the edge of their seats.

As it turned out, they couldn't. Instead of being a battle of the quarterbacks as most people expected, it was the defensive lines that really shone—that is, until Manning made a stunningly improbable pass to David Tyree, who caught it against his head—and won the game 17–14. It was one of the greatest plays I've ever seen and concluded one of the greatest upsets in recent sporting history.

Matt Pretty

My vote for biggest upset goes to the 2004 Boston Red Sox for their unbelievable American League Championship Series comeback against the New York Yankees, and then their incredible defeat of the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series.

With the Yankees leading the ALCS 3–0 and game four 4–3 in the bottom of the ninth—the Sox down to their last three outs—everyone and their dog had the Bronx Bombers Sharpied into the World Series. But Boston was able to tie the game up and eventually won 6–4 in twelve innings thanks

to a walk-off homer by "Big Papi," David Ortiz.

Ortiz would be the hero again in game five the next night, as he hit a single in the 14th inning to give the Red Sox a 5–4 win and send the series back to New York.

Game six featured Boston pitcher Curt Schilling and his bloody sock, a result of leaking sutures in his ankle. Schilling pitched seven strong innings, giving up only one run, and Boston won the game 4–2, becoming the first

MLB team to force a seventh and deciding game after being down 3–0 in a playoff series.

The Red Sox would go on to sweep the regular-season champion St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series, setting a major league record by winning eight straight postseason games.

The numerous storylines in that post-season—Schilling's sock, the red lunar eclipse during game four of the World Series, the Red Sox-Yankees rivalry, the many records set, the breaking of the Curse of the Bambino—truly make that October one to remember for all sports fans.

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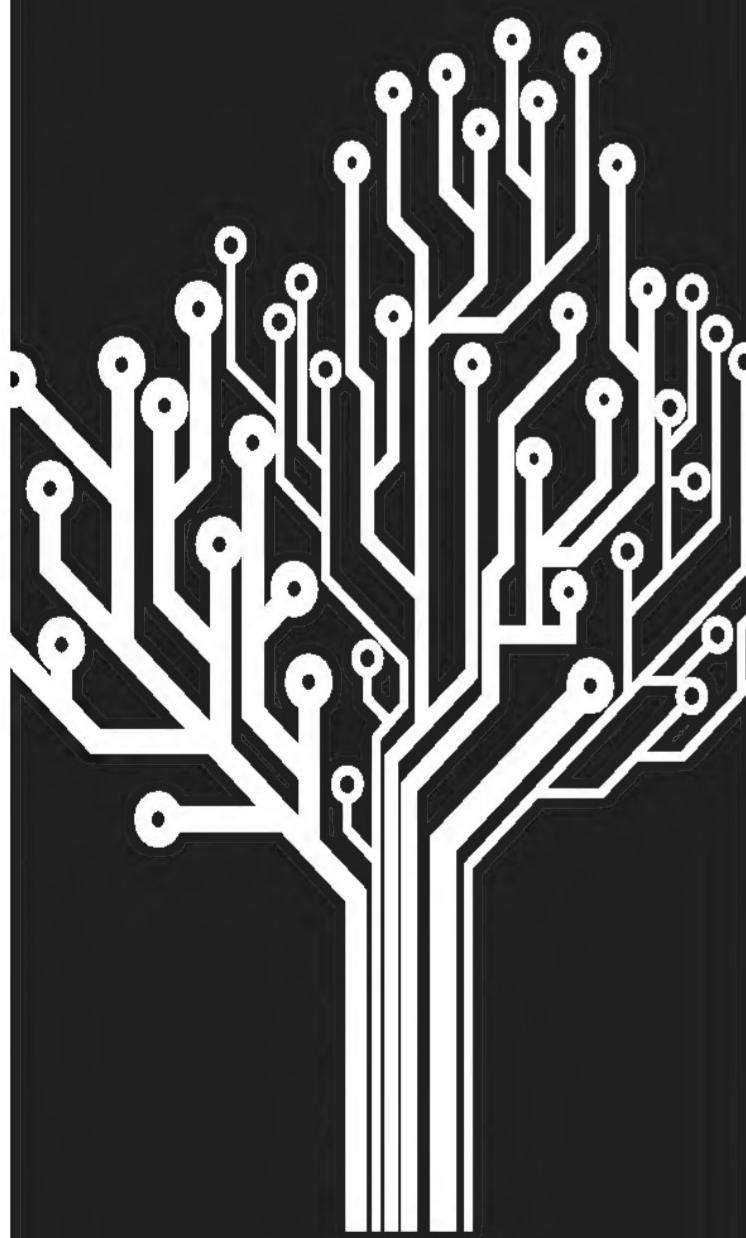


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Top women's hockey coaches criticize CIS refereeing policies

LAUREN MILLET
The Cord Weekly (Wilfrid Laurier)

WATERLOO (CUP)—In hockey, officiating can make or break the game. It can control the speed and pace by the number of penalties doled out, or it can be the catalyst to bring a weaker team equal to a stronger one. Complaints from coaches about the level of officiating at this year's national championship have put CIS policies towards reffing in women's hockey into the spotlight.

"This seemed to be the worst year ever for officiating," said Alberta head coach Howie Draper, whose team finished fourth at this year's championship. "I was very, very disappointed in the quality of refereeing; it was by far the weakest I have ever seen at this competition."

"It's a shame that they choose the CIS nationals to develop referees because it's just not the place that it should happen," he continued.

"While it may not affect the sport directly, there might be some very unhappy coaches and players. It can be very equalizing, and you could end up losing a national championship as a result. It could be detrimental to a particular team."

"McGill was the best team, and Laurier deserved to beat us when they did," Draper added, referring to a semifinal loss to the Golden Hawks, who were in turn downed by McGill in the final.

"I'd like to see the development of female referees, but there has to be a better way. I'm just not sure what that might be."

In addition to dissatisfaction with the experience level of referees at nationals this year, Draper feels that the Hockey Canada policy that women's hockey at the national level must be officiated by female referees is problematic.

"If it were up to me, developing female officials aside, I would want the best officials—male or female," he said. "Ultimately, we would like to see female referees reffing our games. The problem is there are not many female referees at the level they need to be at. [But] for them to get there, they have



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE
NO STARS IN STRIPES Women's hockey has a reffing problem, say its coaches.

to get games of that level to develop."

"I think it's important to have referees that are comparable to the level of play," McGill head coach Peter Smith agreed. "But I think the referees are doing the best they can [...] . It's a lot easier for somebody standing behind the bench to look at what's going on than someone standing on the ice in the middle of the action."

Wilfrid Laurier Head Coach Rick Osborne is arguing that the referees currently in place for CIS women's hockey aren't the best suited to the level of play.

"I don't think Hockey Canada appoints their best to the CIS. We tend to see the same people year after year. It can be frustrating," Osborne said.

Shelly Coolidge, University of Ottawa's head coach and a former referee herself, believes that the main problem for female referees is that they are not given enough support and supervision in their training.

"We have some young women that are so keen but get little supervision. Rarely do I even see a coach sitting in the stands giving them feedback."

"That is where I think we break down," Coolidge said.

"A young fellow on the male side who has potential, there are a number of people who supervise him, coach him to ensure his development to get to the next level. That is where the difference lies."

"I would prefer a mix to ensure that we are getting the best. I would be fine with women referees at nationals if the three or four they assign were the best in the country," Osborne said. "I don't think they are."

CIS rules state that officials for women's hockey are trained up to a level four status, whereas referees for men's hockey are required to have a minimum of level six for university sport.

Officials for women's hockey are also paid only \$70 per game compared to the \$120 per game received in men's hockey.

"They cannot get their level six because they are never going to be working men's CIS hockey or a men's international hockey game," Coolidge said. "So there is no way they can get that."

CIS needs reform, say athletic directors

SIMON MARTIN
The Charlottan (Carleton)

OTTAWA (CUP)—Rumours that the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University will leave CIS and join Division II of the NCAA have prompted some university athletic directors in Canada to say it is time for changes within CIS.

In January, the NCAA approved a pilot project that would allow Canadian schools to apply for membership into Division II. Schools have until 1 June to apply for membership. UBC and SFU are the major schools considering application. SFU interim athletics director Diane St-Denis said that they have yet to make their decision, and UBC did not return calls to the *Charlottan* or the *Gateway* as of press time.

Dick White, director of athletics at the University of Regina and former CIS president, said CIS has to be more creative to help keep players and universities playing in Canada.

"We need to find some solutions to problems that member schools are having," he said.

Increased scholarship flexibility is an

issue the CIS needs to consider, White argued. Right now, he said, the most he can fund for one athlete is tuition and fees—under the current rules, things like textbooks and living expenses are the student's responsibility.

He added that players must have an 80 per cent average to be eligible for any athletic scholarships.

"We can't compete financially with US schools," White said. "It would be nice to keep Canada's top athletes in Canada."

That and travel costs are big reasons why UBC is considering joining the NCAA, according to James Keogh, coordinator of athletics at the University of Victoria. Keogh said high travel costs are part of the reality of playing in the Canada West conference.

"It's not like Ontario, where there are ten schools within three hours," he said.

While the two other major BC universities have yet to make a decision, Keogh said the University of Victoria is not interested in joining the NCAA.

"Our goal is to compete in Canada," he said. "If UBC and SFU depart, it would certainly leave a massive void

in the CIS."

UBC is UVic's main athletic rival in most sports. Keogh said their departure would definitely hurt Victoria financially.

Marg McGregor, chief executive officer of CIS, said the organization will re-evaluate its policies at the end of the year as a standard part of their yearly membership meeting in June.

"Certainly, we do not want UBC to leave us," she said. "They are one of our most successful members."

But McGregor also said CIS would not bend over backwards to accommodate schools that are considering leaving for the NCAA.

McGregor said that she thinks the CIS compares favourably to NCAA Division II and that she doesn't see the move as an attractive option.

"It is a lateral move at best," she said.

McGregor also said the CIS board of directors would recommend that schools should not be allowed to be members of both the CIS and the NCAA at their annual meeting.

More will be known soon, as UBC will tell Canada West by 1 April if they plan to leave.

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Gateway Sports

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- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate this year's news section?

- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the editorial cartoons?

- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate this year's arts & entertainment section?

- 1 2 3 4 5

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- 1 2 3 4 5

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- 1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate this year's comics?

- 1 2 3 4 5

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How would you rate the Gateway's layout and design?

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How would you rate the Gateway's coverage and representation of:

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- 1 2 3 4 5

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- 1 2 3 4 5

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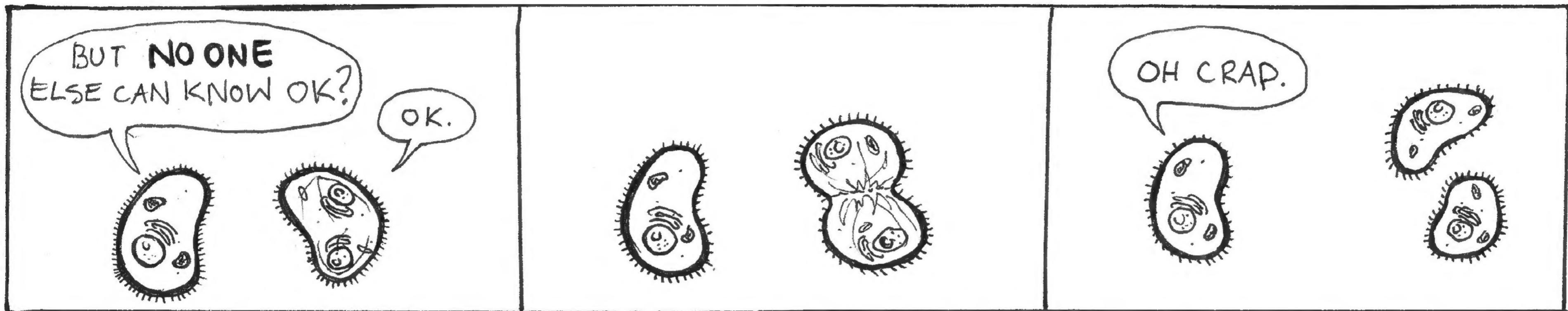
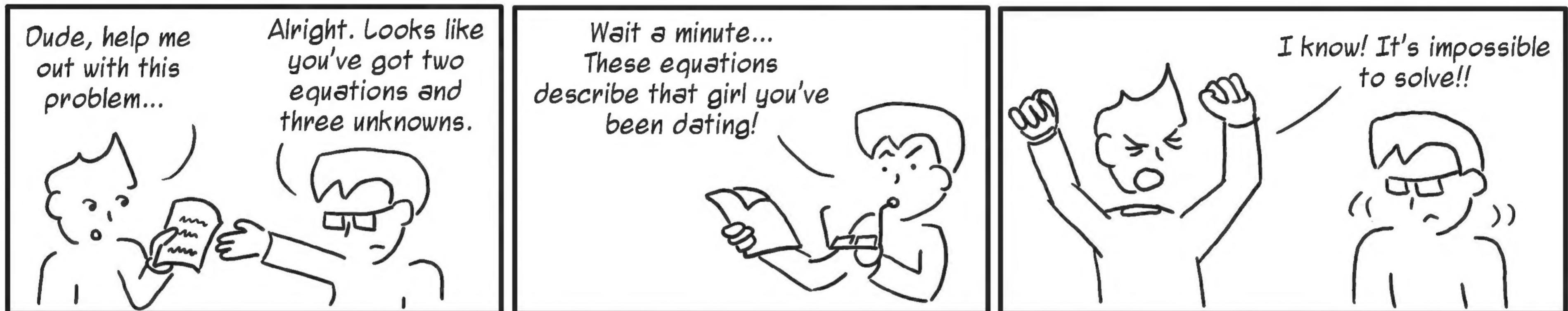
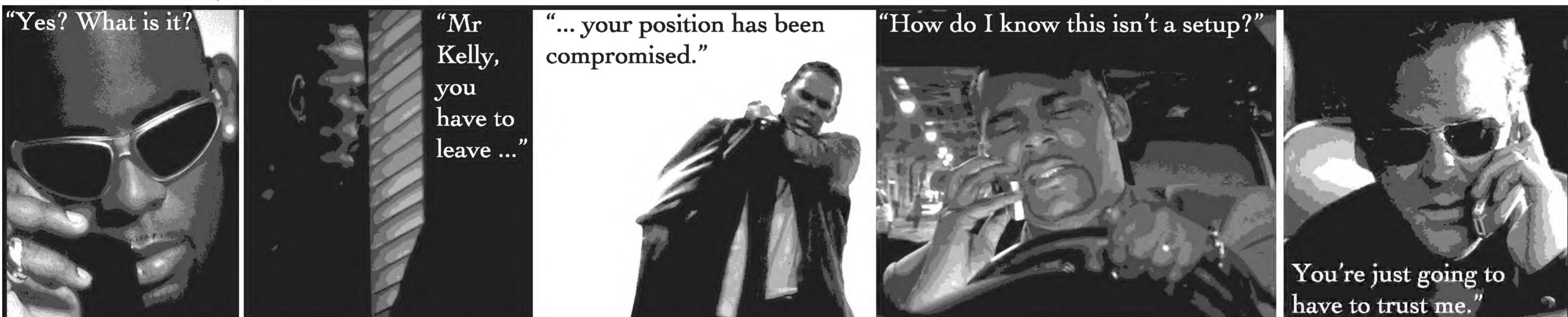
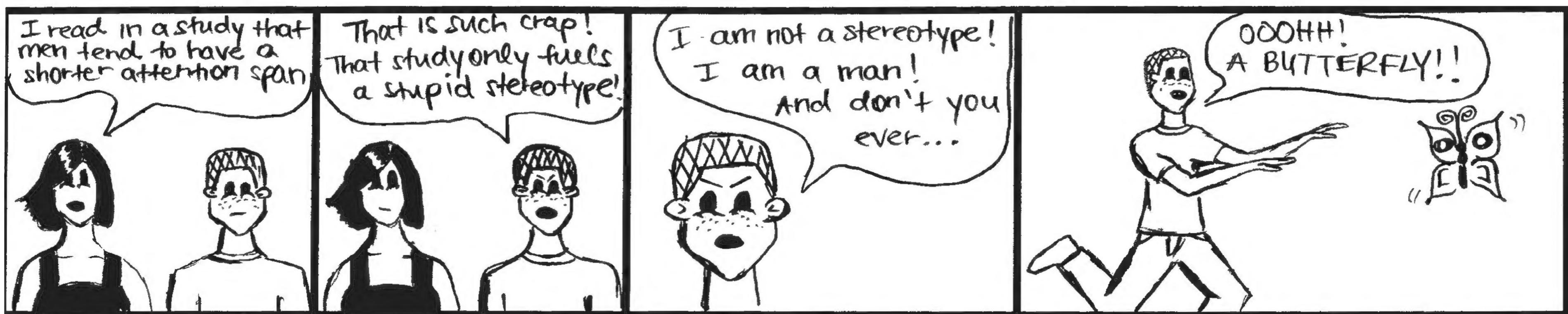
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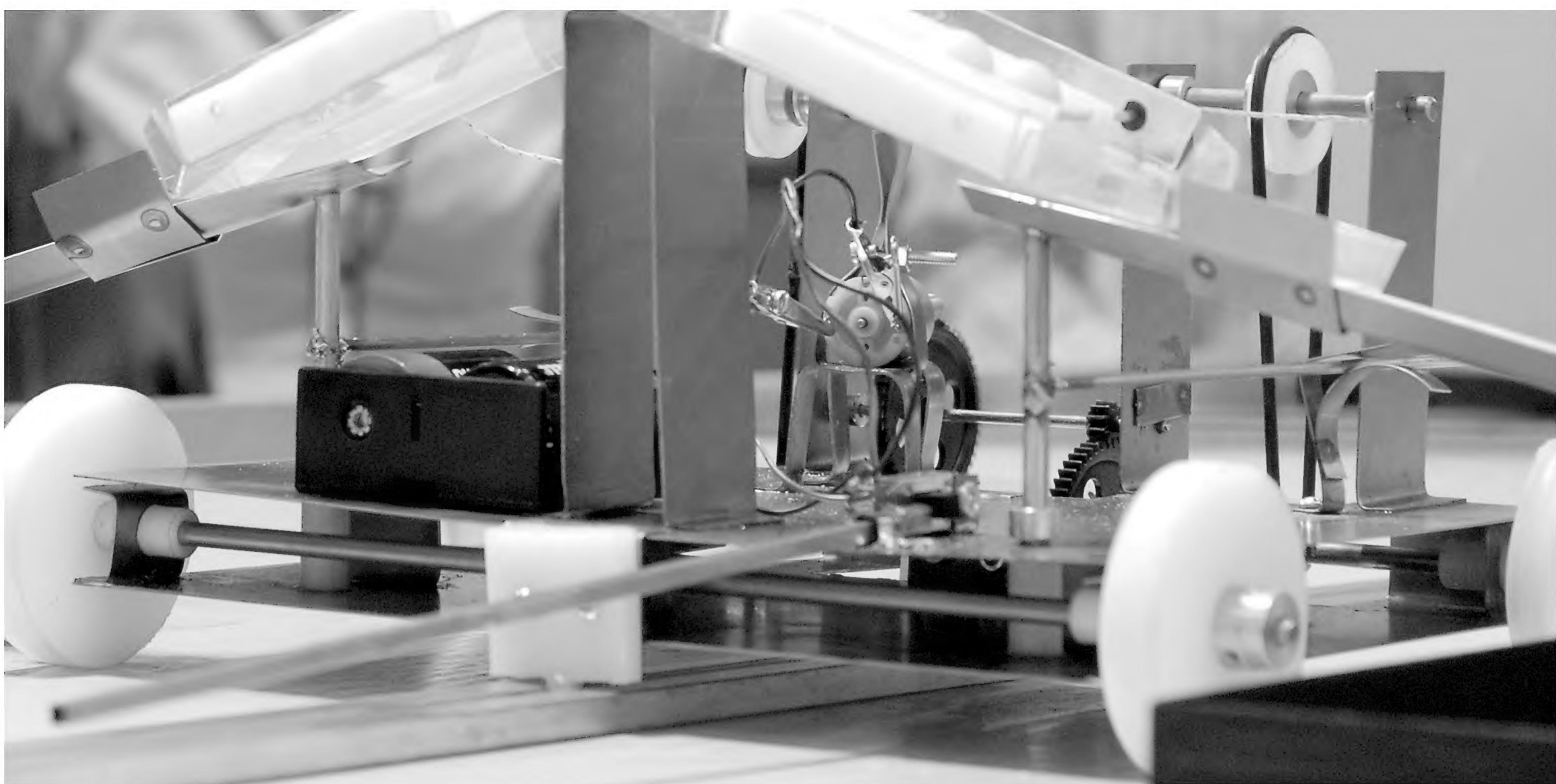
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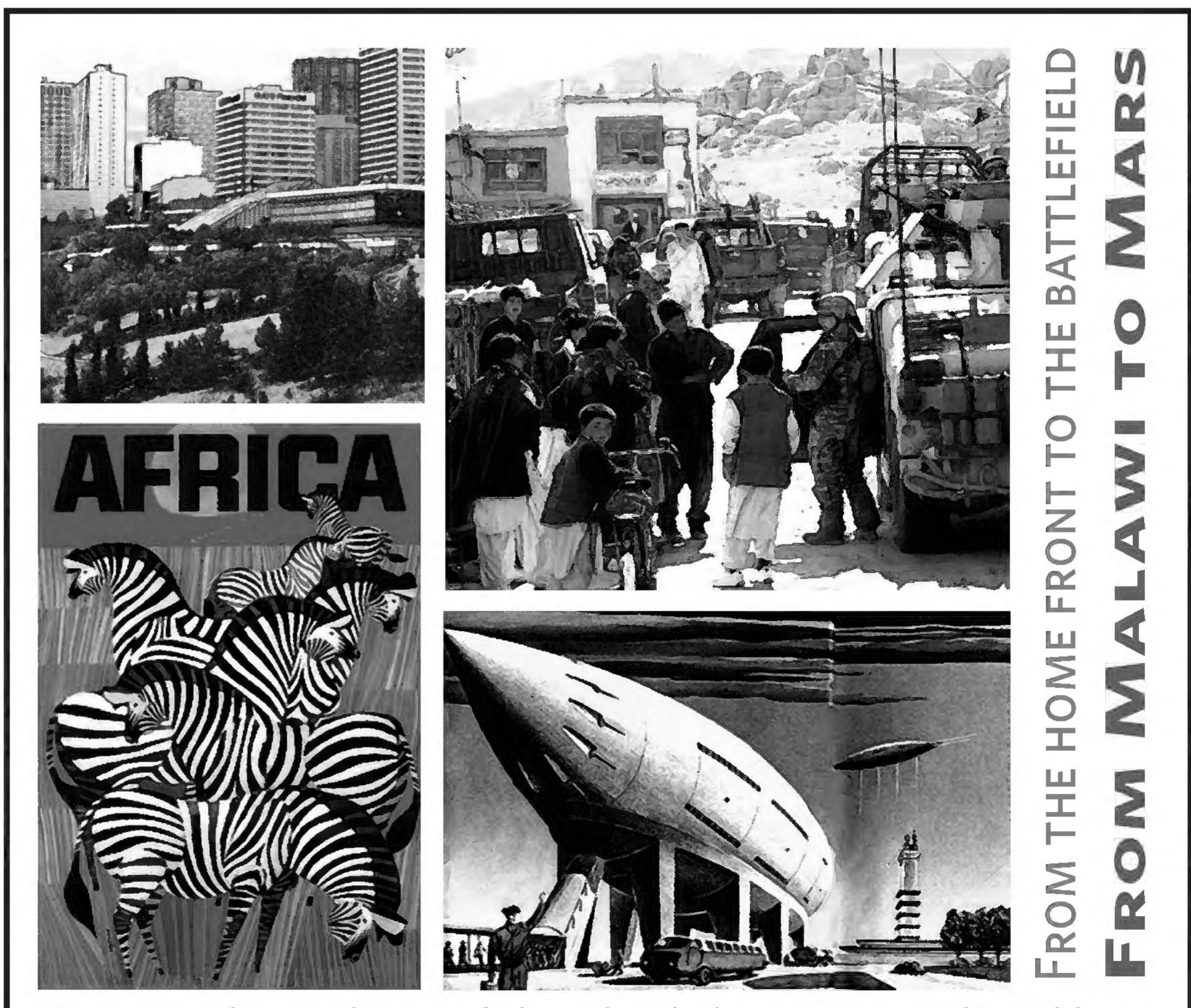
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It's the magazine the newsstands don't want you to see

THE GATEWAY JOKE ISSUE

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Poli sci lecture explores politics of open borders

JENNIFER HUYGEN
News Staff

Modern practices of citizenship and immigration were questioned on the basis of their morality during the twelfth annual Distinguished Lecture in Political Science, which took place in the Humanities Centre on 27 March.

The academic discourse, led by Dr Joseph Carens, a professor at the University of Toronto, marked the end of the 2007/08 Voices from the Cutting Edge speaker series hosted by the University of Alberta political science department.

In his presentation, entitled Who Belongs? Immigration, Democracy and Citizenship, Carens explored current immigration policies in post-industrial societies and advocated for an opening up of global borders.

"The question here is, 'Who should be granted citizenship and why?' and 'Who's morally entitled to be a citizen?'" Carens asked while introducing his topic.

According to Carens, citizenship should be readily accessible for those born or raised in a country, as well as for legal adult immigrants who live in a state for an extended period of time.

Carens pointed to the relatively clean records of Canada and the United States on recent policies regarding access to citizenship. But he stopped short of praising these systems because of their treatment over issues of deportation,

irregular migrants, and refugees.

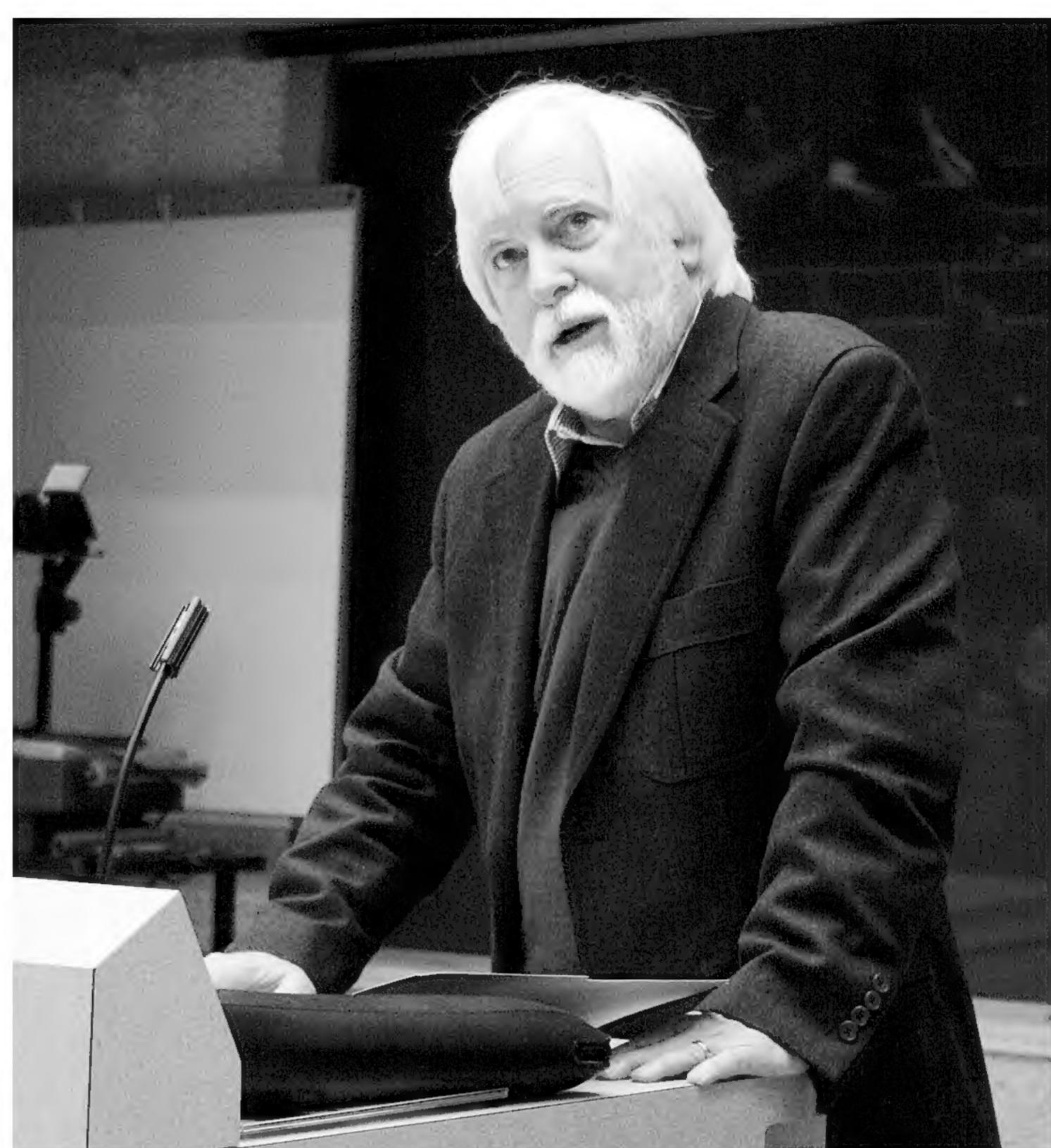
"There's a wide range of legal rights that people ought to possess and normally do possess, as a matter of law, simply [by] virtue of being within the jurisdiction of the state," he observed. "Whether they have permission to be there or not, whether they're obeying the laws or not, we can lump these rights under the heading of basic human rights."

An author of numerous books and scholarly articles, Carens spent much of his time detailing the relationship between states and immigrants, emphasizing certain contradictions in state-based values of liberalism and democracy.

He pointed to the recent debates taking place in Quebec over reasonable accommodation, as well as the decision to ban hijabs in public schools in France.

"It's surprising how often contemporary liberal democratic states are willing simply to override their own principles out of fear and anxiety about differences of culture and identity," he said.

"As with citizenship rights and so on, people sometimes say, 'Well, control over immigration is a fundamental feature of sovereignty and self-determination and can't be subject to any normative constraints external to the community's will,'" Carens stated. "There's no such thing as moral carte blanche when it comes to the exercise



KATIE MOONEY
FREE FLOW Dr Joseph Carens discusses issues of immigration and citizenship.

of state power."

In arguing for the validity of his open borders theory, where citizenship should be universally available and protected, Carens likened current policies of citizenship in the contemporary international system to the medieval practice of feudalism, where the global north and global south represent the nobility and peasantry respectively.

"Citizenship in western democracies is the modern equivalent of feudal privilege," he noted. "Like feudal birthright privileges, restrictive citi-

zenship is hardly justified."

However, Carens recognizes the difficulties inherent in his self-described "generous" policy proposals towards immigration, but challenged the audience to accept that generous behaviour is necessary to combat complacency and the injustices between "haves" and "have-nots."

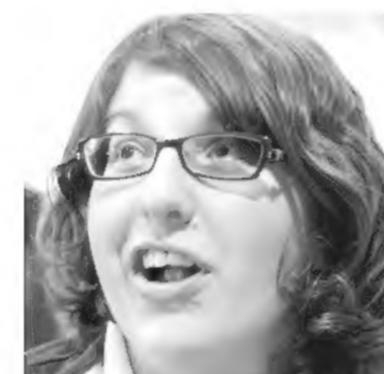
"The idea of opening borders does defy common sense. That is precisely the point of the argument. It aims to challenge the conventional understanding and background pre-suppositions of our world."

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Jen Huygen and Sam Brooks



Evan Rogers
Kinesiology IV



Katherine
Jonson
Engineering IV



Ally Cowan
Arts II



Dustin Miller
English V

"I got home late after work; it was like four in the morning, and I got my friend [...] out of bed, and I was like, 'Man, your car got broken into; someone broke into your car; your back window's all smashed in and everything,' and he [...] got out of bed and got all mad and stuff and went outside, and I locked him out for a bit in his underwear."

"We took my brother's car, and we parked it at the community centre, and he thought it was stolen. We thought it was pretty slick." [What happened next?] "He found it. So it wasn't too exciting—no purpose really."

"I know somebody who went through the trouble to do a complete April Fools' prank. They changed all the clocks by an hour, they put Saran wrap on the toilet seat, and it wasn't April Fools' day; it was the wrong day."

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INS AND OUTS OF INSULIN Nutrition students organize a symposium that highlights recent advancements in diabetes.

Student-run symposium tackles diabetes

JONATHAN TAVES
News Staff

Over 2 million Canadians are afflicted with diabetes, a statistic that's expected to reach 3 million by the end of the decade, according to the Canadian Diabetes Association. However, the goal of reducing that number is the focus of an upcoming symposium put on by U of A nutrition students on Thursday.

Dr Linda McCargar's Nutrition 440 class split into various committees to prepare Thursday's two-part event, entitled The Century to Change Diabetes, which begins with a poster presentation at the Dinwoodie Lounge, followed by the symposium, which will feature talks by three lecturers at the Myer Horowitz.

According to Carissa Brown, a fourth-year student in the class, "The reason we chose the diabetes topic [...] was the recent opening of the Alberta Diabetes Institute. [Our professor] thought it would be a good opportunity to highlight the accomplishments in diabetes over the last century."

Brown, along with Kim Chapman and Deanne Harefah, is part of the class's public relations committee for the project. She noted that part of what makes this symposium distinct is that

nutrition students are fully responsible for its undertaking.

"Whereas other events on campus are planned by the faculty, it is entirely student-run," Brown said. "It's going to be completely planned and implemented by [undergraduate] students, and that's what we think makes it unique."

"It's going to be completely planned and implemented by [undergraduate] students, and that's what we think makes it unique."

CARISSA BROWN
FOURTH-YEAR NUTRITION STUDENT

The class booked speakers who are experts in the diabetes field and also recruited sponsors to fundraise the necessary capital. As Chapman explained, "Professors, people within the industry, and other organizations have been really supportive."

The poster presentation covers the wide variety of topics that the students have been working on throughout the

year, although many deviate from diabetes, the topic of the symposium.

"The [research projects] vary from food products to community nutrition," Harefah said.

"It's a good opportunity to showcase our own research, even though it's not directly related to diabetes," Chapman added.

Drawing on the expertise of the symposium's speakers, the event will delve into current knowledge surrounding all types of the disease, but will also look to the future to explore possible areas of innovation.

"The interaction I have had so far indicates [the symposium] to be very well organized, with two other very highly thought-of speakers," noted Dr Edmond Ryan, who will lecture about gestational diabetes.

Dr Tom Wolever from the University of Toronto will also give a presentation about his research of the glycemic index and its effect on diabetes prevention and treatment. As well, Dr Carla Taylor from the University of Manitoba will talk about her studies on dietary modulation of insulin resistance.

"Diabetes is common, and it is serious for [any] person with it," Ryan explained. "The U of A is a centre of excellence for diabetes research which will only continue to flourish."

only all around them, but that it could be an enjoyable pursuit.

Speakers such as Dr Margaret-Ann Armour, the associate dean of Science, engaged the children with lectures illustrating the everyday importance of science.

Science FUNday isn't only about the Science FUNDamentals program, but various on campus programs and associations getting out and showcasing their own contributions to the world of science.

The Alberta Student Pharmacy Association (ASPA) was there making calamine lotion with the kids, while Discover E, a student group supported by the Faculty of Engineering, was on hand to give a demonstration on "Science Around the House." ARVP displayed two "ground vehicles" that could detect objects in front of them in order to manoeuvre around them.

The basic idea behind it is that there are so many programs out

there designed to get young women interested in science, it kind of leaves the young men [out]," Tori Richards, President of Science Fundamentals explained. "SF is not gender-biased; it tries to get all elementary students [...] interested in science."

Science FUNDamentals works to achieve this by going into classrooms all over the city and giving hands-on demonstrations to the students. In the future, the group hopes to expand their program to include junior high, and have also been invited to do some demonstrations at the YMCA.

Richards explained that events such as FUNday are designed to "show [children] that science [...] is all around them; it is part of their everyday life even if they don't realize it."

"It makes science something that's more than just some obscure man in lab in a white coat. It shows science can be fun."

—Megan Kingdon, News Writer

NEWS BRIEF

SCIENCE KIDS HAVE ALL THE FUN

Science isn't always the first thing that comes to mind when looking to entertain children, but for those children who gathered on campus Sunday, science was fun.

The children were attending Science FUNday, an event, put on by Science FUNDamentals, a student group aimed at building children's interest in science.

There was a lot to capture the attention and imaginations of the children and parents attending: film canister rockets, a mini crime scene, a walk-through solar system, and even a self-guiding remote-control bear, courtesy of the Autonomous Robotic Vehicle Project (ARVP), to name but a few. All around the room things glowed, moved, and changed colour, showing the participants that science wasn't

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The francophone factor

As the University celebrates 100 years of academia, Campus Saint-Jean has evolved from humble roots to become an integral part of its history

by KIRSTEN GORUK
photos by LAUREN STIEGLITZ

The University of Alberta isn't the only campus with a centenary celebration this year. Campus Saint-Jean (CSJ), a faculty within the U of A, is also throwing its 100th birthday party in 2008. What began in 1908 as an institution to train boys for the religious order has become one of the foremost francophone campuses in Canada. With a history rich in advancement and cultural influence, staff and students alike have gone all out to commemorate the past 100 years. But as they celebrate past and current success, CSJ also has a great deal to look forward to in the future.

In its 100 years, Campus Saint-Jean (CSJ) has changed with the times, but hasn't lost the original goal of a culturally influenced environment. Established in 1908, the same year as the U of A, CSJ gradually became a French institution. As Frank McMahon, Professor Emeritus at CSJ and research expert of French education in Canada explains, the school was founded by an Oblate priest, giving it distinctly religious roots.

"It was originally set up for boys who wanted to join a religious order," McMahon recalls. "It was [then] opened to all the francophone boys of Alberta in 1943 because it wasn't legal to teach in French in the public schools."

By 1943, Saint-Jean was an all-boys French College, regardless of whether or not they wanted to join the order. Then in 1949, it became a boarding school, offering both high school and postsecondary education.

its current name, Campus Saint-Jean.

Today's CSJ is an integral part of the U of A, one that offers a number of unique opportunities for staff and students.

"It's an atmosphere where people know each other better, and I think it provides all sorts of opportunities for greater levels of knowledge. With knowledge comes more of a tendency to get involved," says CSJ's Dean Marc Arnal.

University of Alberta President Indira Samarasekera agrees with Arnal and hopes to see the relationship between the two institutions continue to strengthen and benefit all of the parties involved.

"We will continue to promote CSJ as an important and distinctive part of the U of A," Samarasekera says. "When students are looking to come to the U of A, it will be widely known that we have CSJ, and that will become an added feature."

This year's CSJ campus has 609 undergraduate students, 91 graduate students, and 28 professors. Although higher enrollment is always desirable, Arnal believes that a smaller campus size has its advantages.

"Small means that it's easier to set in place a more congenial atmosphere. It's easier for professors to get to know their students by their names, and it's easier for us to generally support students."

Size aside, the campus offers a unique educational experience for U of A students who have an interest in Francophone studies.

"There is no point in doing the same thing two miles east of what's already happening at the U of A," McMahon says.

The challenges for the institution, he says, centre around maintaining and expanding on the very aspects that make it stand out in the first place.

"We want to make sure that we've got a particular culture within the institution, [that we are] maintaining a relationship with French language, literature, and culture at the same time as we pursue our other academic goals: good teaching and highly recognized research."

As CSJ continues to focus on its goals for the present, it has also spent this year celebrating the past. The year-long centenary celebration opened with a ceremony on 17 January 2008.

Samarasekera, who attended the event, found it to be the perfect way to showcase the accomplishments of 100 years.

"It was a great event because it showcased the French culture and the traditions of Faculté Saint-Jean. It really highlighted why it is such a special campus," she recalls.

A historical panel depicting 100 years of student life was unveiled, comprised of photographs spanning 1908–2008.

There are also a number of commemorative events spread out throughout the year. Chorale Saint-Jean, which toured to Calgary in March, will perform in Quebec this July. The tour is a

repeat of a trip to Quebec that originally took place in 1949.

"People in Quebec don't realize that there's a French community in Alberta," McMahon explains.

Other upcoming events include "100 rooms/100 years," taking place at Residence Saint-Jean in September, and the creation of a book that celebrates the history of the Oblate fathers at Saint-Jean that will launch in October.

So far, the celebrations have been well received by the public.

"We've had wonderful participation from both within the university and the community. We've had some activities, conferences, and speakers who have spoken in French, English, and some in both," Arnal explains.

In reaching the U of A and the surrounding community, there's more to be gained than just a centennial celebration.

Gabriel Joshee-Arnal, counsel associate to and incumbent for the Vice-President (External) of the Association des Universitaires de la Faculté Saint-Jean, believes that the centenary is a good opportunity to reach out to students at the U of A.

"I think that when students see the campus in the centenary activities, they are seeing all the stuff that we're doing."

He hopes that in the future, there will be increased communication between the students of CSJ and those who simply take courses at the campus.

"There is very much a willingness from the University to work with CSJ in developing and raising the visibility of the students," Joshee-Arnal explains. "I'd definitely like to see more students [enrolling ...], to have more events together and to try and create more of a social community."

Samarasekera also plans to see a continuation of the U of A's partnership with CSJ, and she's more than happy to share the University's centennial with Saint-Jean.

"It's a wonderful thing that's happening at the same time, and we can really feed off each other," she says.

As the U of A continues to grow, Arnal hopes to see the CSJ as a contributing factor in their success.

"We're just very, very proud and very happy to be part of what we consider to be one of the primary universities in Canada," Arnal says.

In terms of the campus itself, Arnal is determined to see its ambitious goals of expansion and community involvement met. He also has high future expectations regarding CSJ's recent advancements in research.

"In the space of about 30 years, [we've] gone from essentially a secondary and non-research teaching institution to a fully functioning part of the U of A," he explains.

In attributing the University's success, McMahon says he would also like to see that the CSJ makes a name for itself on the national stage.

"I think it will probably become one of the top francophone institutions in English-speaking Canada," McMahon believes. "It will establish itself as an outstanding institution in the country."

With 100 years of success behind them, Arnal is confident that CSJ will continue to build on the strong cultural and educational backgrounds that make the campus stand out.

"My indicators of success are going to be that students come here because they've heard about it and its good reputation. It'll be viewed as an asset to the University of Alberta."



Today's CSJ is an integral part of the U of A, one that offers a number of unique opportunities for staff and students.

Girls were granted the ability to study at the institution in 1960, and by 1963, CSJ saw its first affiliation with the U of A. This partnership expanded in 1970 when the University established Université Collège, which offered arts, science, and education programs on the college site.

"It functioned as a partnership where the Oblate [fathers] still ran the residence and all the extra curricular activities to ensure a French environment. The U of A offered the academic side," McMahon explains.

Six years later in 1976, the Oblate priests sold the Collège, and it was renamed the Faculté Saint-Jean.

"The U of A decided that they would purchase the lease and the land and offer the whole program as an integrated part of the university, as a faculty," McMahon recalls.

It was only in October of 2005 that it was given

OPINION

opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca • tuesday, 1 april, 2008

FSIN should be through with Ahenakew

IN MOST CASES, IF A PERSON IS FIRED FROM their job for publicly blaming World War II on the Jews, they couldn't expect to ever get that job back. However, this wasn't the case for David Ahenakew.

Astonishingly, the Aboriginal leader was reinstated to the senate of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) by a landslide 43–3 vote on Monday—barely five years after he made statements to the *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* claiming that “the Second World War was created by the Jews,” resulting in his removal.

In December 2002, Ahenakew called Jews “a disease” that was going to “take over” Europe, and said, “The Jews damn near owned all of Germany prior to the war. [...] That's how Hitler came in. He was going to make damn sure that the Jews didn't take Germany or Europe. That's why he fried 6 million of those guys, you know. Jews would have owned the goddamned world.”

The public reacted with outrage to Ahenakew's comments, which were made in front of an FSIN group. Politicians and Aboriginal leaders—including FSIN President Perry Bellegarde and Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chief Matthew Coon Come—were quick to condemn Ahenakew's beliefs, and he was expelled from the Federation shortly afterwards. In 2005, he was stripped of his membership in the Order of Canada and found guilty of spreading hate speech. He appealed the verdict, which was overturned in 2006, and a new trial will begin in November of this year.

It's Ahenakew's refusal to display any remorse for his comments or willingness to change his views that makes his reinstatement to the FSIN so problematic. Though he apologized for his remarks soon after they were made, he recanted that apology during his first trial.

According to other FSIN senators, the resolution reinstating Ahenakew to his position on the senate referred to his history as an advocate and leader for Aboriginal people in Canada. He was president of the Federation in 1968, and was influential in the founding of several higher-education programs for Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan. He has also worked with the United Nations and served as Chief of both the FSIN and the AFN.

One of the FSIN senators who voted in favour of the resolution, Chief Irvin Starblanket of the Starblanket Cree Nation, defended Ahenakew to the *StarPhoenix*, saying, “I think he paid his dues. He apologized. He won in the courts. And besides, he did more good for us as Indian people than he did wrongs.”

But Starblanket, as well as the other senators who supported Ahenakew's reinstatement, are missing the point and doing a disservice to the people Ahenakew will be representing. Whatever good he had done in the past for the First Nations people of Saskatchewan and Canada will forever be overshadowed by his hateful comments.

Because he has never fully apologized, or demonstrated a change in view, it's impossible to separate him from his racist statements. Because the FSIN have so readily accepted an outspoken racist back into their midst, they will lose credibility and respect as a result. And no matter how much good Ahenakew might have done in the past, it won't make up for the harm that his reinstatement will do to the FSIN's cause.

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

Seal slaughter unsexy

Apparently, the environmentalist celebrities from around the world are too busy to protest the slaughter of seals these days. That's right, Canada's annual seal hunt is now underway, and aside from some deaths of would-be hunters, there hasn't been so much as a peep of protest—from famous people that is; I'm sure those worthless hippies are protesting. I guess poor, adorably defenceless baby seals just aren't as sexy as poor, adorably defenceless Tibetans.

CONAL PIERSE
Opinion Editor



CONAL PIERSE

LETTERS

Dare to check your facts

Sean Steels seems to be rather up in arms about Dare to Deceive (re: “Protest campaign too daring,” 2/ March). It may be a little “guerrilla-style,” but I don’t see the problem with students actually being active for once. If he’s so insulted by it, don’t go to the rallies. The posters aren’t that rampant either; I see a few around, but nothing close to the signs everywhere for “Earn \$15.93 an hour!” etc. I also don’t see Mr Steels providing a single concrete suggestion for how students that want to cause some change in the administration should do so.

Great for you for joining the Facebook group called “Return Credit Card Payment Option to the U of A Finances,” Sean, but you still have a problem with the “Dare to Deceive Group?” Well, if you look at the administrators for both groups, you will shockingly find that two of them, Andrea Michaud and Basil Bansal, are admins for both. Andrea created the credit card group to raise awareness, and Dare to Deceive branched from this larger group to become a smaller, more active group of students.

So before you go insulting Dare to Deceive and their ideology, maybe Mr Steels should realize that the credit card group is the progenitor of Dare to Deceive.

CHRISTINA WILLIAMSON
Arts II

Van Kampen's facts weren't fudged, Warwick

Derek Warwick's 2/ March article, “Misinforming people on birth control ends up doing more harm than good,” accused Peter van Kampen of

intentionally relating inaccurate information to the audience of “Sexual Revolution in an Age of Controversy.” I spoke with Mr van Kampen a couple days after the talk, and he informed me that he had, unfortunately, not double-checked some of his sources as carefully as he could have. He asked that the error be made clear, and was genuinely sorry about his misunderstanding—Warwick is sorely mistaken in accusing him of maliciously misleading students.

The inaccuracies in some of the data do not render van Kampen incompetent, nor his intentions malign, as Warwick suggests. Van Kampen's goal was to affirm sex as being good and deserving respect, and he maintained that chastity involves treating sex with the respect it deserves by acknowledging two of its primary purposes, babies and bonding: a very valid thought.

Additionally, I’m honestly unable to recall any racist or sexist comment that van Kampen made during his presentation. He called for women to dress modestly because he felt that, considering the prevalence of pornography in our society, many men wrongfully objectify women. As to van Kampen being homophobic, Warwick himself noted during the Q & A period that he didn’t believe he was homophobic, which renders his opinion article a trifle inconsistent. In fact, van Kampen made it clear several times that he’s not homophobic and has friends who are homosexual.

Finally, the Planned Parenthood website indicates that every year, two out of every 100 women will become pregnant when their partner’s condom is always used correctly (ie laboratory trials). However, they go on to note that every year, 15 out of 100 women will become pregnant when their partner’s condom is not used correctly. And, as I think that Warwick would agree, condoms are

not always used correctly—which means that van Kampen was not actually that far off in his 20 per cent condom failure rate estimate.

NICOLE SEVERIN
Science II

Body Worlds has merit

(Re: “Body Worlds: Disrespectful disgrace or educational tool?” 20 March). Firstly, Ms Vail needs to understand that donors who willingly sign up for the donor program do so with the explicit intention of being plastinated and posed in typical Body Worlds style.

The bodies aren’t bartered for, as Ms Vail’s comparison to aristocratic families selling their pregnant daughters suggests, but, rather, they’re obtained by individuals who sought out the donation program.

Comparing the exhibit to statutory rape is childish and out of place. Suggesting that a fully grown adult is no more competent at making personal choices than a naïve and coerced seven-year-old [is ludicrous]. I trust the personal choices of an adult more than those of a child, and I think the choice they made regarding the use of their remains deserves more respect than Ms Vail gives them.

And although a profit is made by Body Worlds, the exhibit isn’t a “freak show” rolling into town to showcase people with abnormalities trying to make a buck. Profits are required to maintain the existence of the exhibits. Profits allow for the fulfillment of their primary purpose: education.

Ms Vail willingly acknowledges the validity of using cadavers for medical students, donated, no doubt, by willing and consenting individuals. She supports the education of those privileged enough to have access to such educational tools, yet she is overtly opposed to the education of the general public. The human body, in my

mind, is a relevant and valid object for study; we all have one, and everyone deserves to know more about themselves.

What’s most disappointing is Ms Vail’s disrespectful attitude that neglects the donors themselves. She posits that human remains need to be properly disposed of out of respect for the individual who has died. She ignores the fact that a public boycott of the celebration for these people’s bodies is a direct insult to the wishes and intentions of the donors themselves. Having desired for their bodies to be a part of this exhibit, denouncing their choice is a blow towards them as people. Ms Vail has no authority in passing moral judgments on the validity of the personal decision made by a deceased individual.

Ms Vail is obviously not involved in any sort of health science, and understandably doesn’t hold the same appreciation for learning about the human physical form as myself and many others. I concede that the exhibit isn’t for everyone, but I’m strongly opposed to her public condescension of a tool that so many may benefit from, as well as her blatant disregard for the desires and emotions of the deceased.

MAX LEVINE
Kinesiology III

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

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Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student ID number to be considered for publication.

Dumb Internet memes are teh suck



ANDREW NEWBORN

The Internet has always been a butcher shop for the English language, but it seems to be getting worse. The problem is that while misspellings, misuse, and bad grammar—not to mention intentional, ironic bad grammar—were once relegated to the sites I stayed away from, they're now seeping into the ones I actually visit.

Take YouTube, for instance: it's massively popular, and I can't help visiting it as much as everybody else. Unfortunately, comments are only minimally moderated, which means that where I used to have only a small intake of "lol's" in my daily life, I now have an overwhelming dose.

The stupidity seems to be contagious, as it's becoming increasingly difficult for me to read my favourite forums without being driven to distraction by obnoxious catchphrases. I'm not sure if there are just more of them than there used to be, but the latest generation is

definitely a lot more grating.

Where catchphrases were previously several words long, Internet memes seem to have become shorter over the years so that now single words are the catchphrases. The Internet has ruined words such as "win," "fail," and "epic." These three simple, common, useful words now make me shudder when I hear or read them.

That new movie is not "win," nor is it "made of win," and it's especially not "made of win and awesome." Your anti-Scientology protest might have been great, even incredible, but was it actually "epic?" That new game may not be very good, but it's not "fail." The first time these words were ever used in this fashion might have been entertaining, but now I wonder if anyone using them even realizes that they're doing so improperly.

It's not just bad grammar and overuse, but that the people using these words seem to think in binary, where movies, video games, and just about anything else can be described as being only the greatest or the worst thing "ever." Nothing is ever decent or okay.

Almost as grating are the cat macros or "lolcats"—pictures of animals, usually cats, doing something "cute" with some kind of ironic wording slapped across the image. These phrases either

convey what the animal is supposedly thinking or describe its action in saccharin-sweet baby talk.

If I wanted to roll my eyes at the way people talk to their pets, I'd leave my house. The Internet is a cold, dangerous place, and posting images used to be for the purpose of disgusting fellow message board readers. I'm sick of seeing your cat—bring back gaping anuses.

The only positive in the latest generation of Internet trends is surely Rick Astley. His 1987 masterwork "Never Gonna Give You Up" has been endeared to me thanks to the "rick-roll" phenomenon. I've never actually been rickroll'd—which means to trick someone into seeing the "Never Gonna Give You Up" music video—but I sure have rocked out to that song many times (including right now, as I write this). My contribution to the 5 million-plus views of the YouTube video have been voluntary and without remorse.

I think what separates "Never Gonna Give You Up" from win/fail/epic is that Astley's use of the English language isn't an attempt to revert to grammatically broken baby-talk. Where once, in an Internet from long, long ago, "all your base are belong to us" made fun of bad English, now the trend in catchphrases is to embrace it. And that, my friends, is a failure of epic proportions.

Sex not just for baby making



PAUL KNOECHEL

The Catholic argument goes something like this: whether you believe that he did this by molding some clay or in a more soft-handed approach like evolution, the point is that God created us in his image. And being the omnipotent being that he is, one can assume that he'd have a complete knowledge of how these subjects were put together—which includes the female clitoris. Now, if God had truly wanted sex to be purely for procreation, why would he give women this sex organ? It serves absolutely no reproductive purpose, and sex still feels good enough for a woman (so I'm told) to encourage sex without clitoral stimulation.

To so totally denounce birth control would mean that you would have to deny that there's some other purpose to sex other than conception. But that contradicts both simple logic as well as major tenets in Christian thought—that God is omnipotent and that he created humans.

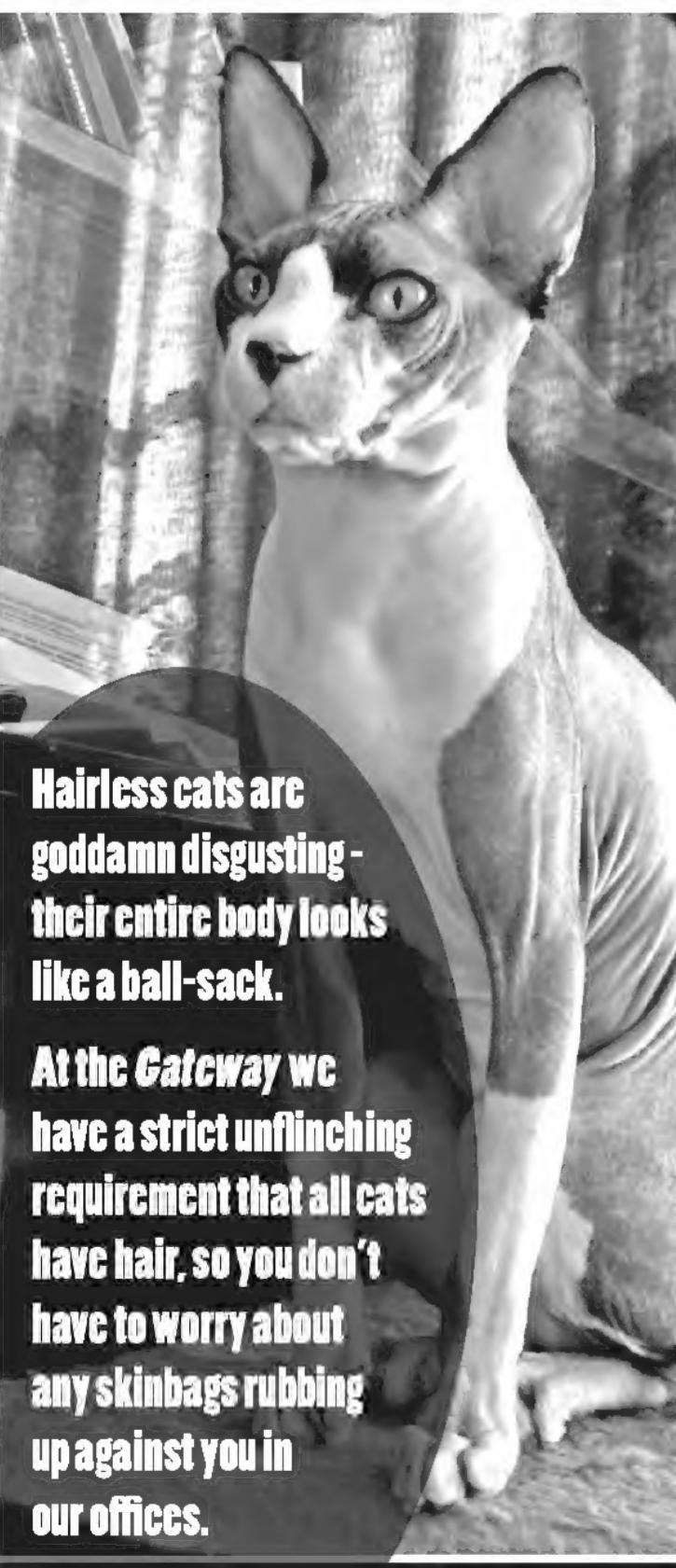
It's not like Catholicism can't adopt this notion. It's an idea that certainly can, and certainly should, find its place within the Catholic view of sexuality. Just because sex can be enjoyed for itself doesn't mean that you can't say it should stay within the realm of marriage.

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Alberta

Earth Hour just saves guilty consciences

Though we'd like to think we make an impact, 60 minutes of environmentalism can't accomplish much



BRIAN GOULD

the media feel all warm and fuzzy inside, this sale had more impact and was more representative of where we are as a species. Earth Hour is symbolic only of the lengths we'll go to in order to give ourselves another undeserved pat on the back for being "green."

Saturday, 29 March, 2008: it was happening all across the city, but downtown in the City Centre Mall, it felt even more special. Hundreds of people came together, united with one purpose. For one hour that day, I truly felt alive, as if the spirit of humanity was coursing through me. It was symbolic of how, together, we can do more than ever before. Lights were switched off and homes were dark as everyone came together in the name of saving—on everything in the store! 40 per cent off! 60 per cent off! Everything must go!

That's right, the Home Outfitters store downtown was having a gigantic, blow-out closing sale. For those who missed it, oh what a spectacular spectacle it was. Prices were slashed on sheets, comforters, towels, housewares, cookware, kitchen electrics, microwaves, glassware, flatware, dinnerware, home decor, bath decor, bath mats, personal care, accent furniture, area rugs, lamps, window treatments, vacuums, and more!

Oh, you thought I was talking about Earth Hour? Sorry, but even though the idea of shutting off the lights for an hour makes people and

I know it's supposed to be a proclamation of commitment to reducing energy consumption, but the effort required to participate was laughably minor. Intentional or not, the message is that we don't have to bother to think about our actions for the rest of the year because we've already done our part. Not only is this a dangerous idea to propagate, but the actual event likely increased energy use.

When the original event was held in Sydney, Australia, the high estimate for reduction in power consumption was ten per cent (the low was two per cent). That was a concerted effort targeted at just one city, but chances are that any reduction in Edmonton was minuscule by comparison. That's less than 0.001 percent reduction in annual direct electricity consumption—much less still for total energy consumption. Any savings during the hour were statistically insignificant, and consumption was probably up both before and after.

For those who prepared for the hour of darkness by trying to score some crazy deals on cloyingly scented votive candles at Home Outfitters that day, I've got bad news: most manufactured candles are made of paraffin

wax, which is actually a heavier hydrocarbon than jet fuel. Five grams of candle burned over an hour releases more CO₂ than a 60-Watt bulb—not including the energy used to manufacture and transport that candle from China.

Earth Hour is symbolic only of the lengths that we'll go to in order to give ourselves another undeserved pat on the back for being "green."

Unless you bought a single tea-light or used old candles, you actually did more harm than good—and if you bought big ones planning to never use them again, you cancelled out hundreds of other people's efforts as well.

Let's say that everyone did everything that they could and basically just sat in the dark for an hour. Unfortunately, energy production needs to be carefully controlled so that blackouts don't occur—coal powerplants don't instantly shut off when someone temporarily flicks off a light. Congratulations, you achieved nothing except a smug sense of self-satisfaction.

In order for this to demonstrate any real action and be productive in any

way, it needs to be much longer—at least a week. Not so much fun now, is it? After that week, there would have to be real, lasting behavioural changes towards energy efficiency, something that I can't see happening from a single hour. Besides, lighting is only one of the countless ways modern society consumes energy and resources. It doesn't deal in any way with energy for heating, transportation, or manufacturing, for example.

If reducing consumption doesn't hurt initially, it probably isn't helping that much either—but don't worry, the hurt doesn't last. I just sold my car, which I hadn't used in a year, and I feel better for it. There's a joy in knowing that you don't need to buy and consume things to be happy or to build your sense of self-worth. In the last two months, I haven't bought much more than food and a water bottle—and that new water bottle made my month.

I'm sure some of you will bash me for being egotistical, but while I've got a similarly smug sense of self-satisfaction, at least I'm actually making a difference. Call me an elitist all you want—if yelling that out of your Hummer window while I'm on my bicycle makes you feel better—but there's really nothing I can do for you.

"Earth Hour" certainly won't help, and though an Earth Week might help a bit, permanent changes are the only thing that's going to cut it in the long term.

THE BURLAP SACK

This Burlap Sack goes out to all you computer squatters on the main floor of Rutherford Library.

Nothing is more infuriating than trying to find a book's call number in the ten minutes before you have to go catch a bus and having to wait in line behind a horde of essay-writing, keyboard-pillow-using miscreants who have nothing better to do than waste the time of upstanding young book-finders like yours truly.

Not that there's anything wrong with you spending an hour refreshing your Facebook profile every 30 seconds in a desperate bid for socialite glory. The problem is that there are countless computer labs around campus built for doing just that.

Heck, you could even use all the time you're wasting to get a job and buy a laptop. Then you can steal my favourite couch in SUB as often as you'd like because you'll be using that area for what it's designed: writing essays, using your keyboard as a pillow, and refreshing your Facebook profile to see what "hilarious" comments are being written on your wall—and I won't complain, honest.

In the meantime, leave Rutherford Library's computers available to people who need them for what they're there for: looking for library books.

And if you're reading this online, while sitting at a library computer, you might want to read faster because a burlap sack's about to come down over your head.

SEAN STEELS

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The University of Alberta and Alberta Ingenuity invite you to a media and communications training workshop for researchers on April 8.

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WHAT:
Media and Communications Workshop for Researchers, facilitated by award-winning Alberta author and columnist, Todd Babiak
www.toddbabiak.com

WHEN:
Tuesday, April 8
4 PM to 6 PM

WHERE:
University of Alberta
Stollery Executive Development Centre
Business Building
Room 5-40A/B

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
sandra.robertson@albertaingenuity.ca

Please RSVP by April 4 to: mediaevent@albertaingenuity.ca
Everyone welcome!

PIZZA PARTY!

You are invited to join
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When: Tuesday, April 8; noon

Where: Celebration Plaza, outside the main entrance of the Administration Building.

Complimentary pizza will be available just show your valid student ONEcard.

Bring your classmates—the first 1200 students will be served.

For more information contact the event coordinator at 492-1525.



Mostly serene musings from the Republic

The Milton, Ontario six-piece's trombonist waxes philosophical about *Population*, pornography, and psychological group dynamics

musicpreview

The Most Serene Republic

With Whitsundays
Friday, 4 April at 8pm
Starlite Room

SIMON YACKULIC
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Like their music, members of The Most Serene Republic have deep insights into the human psyche, along with random bursts of colourful artistry that, according to vocalist and tromboner Adrian Jewett, come along with "feeling like hilarious 18-year-old(s)." This carefree sentiment rears its head during the video for "Content Always Was My Favourite Colour," a track off of their 2005 debut *Underwater Cinematographer*: it features a spontaneous array of lights, illusions, and sounds, opening with a techno laser show set to a momentarily peaceful piano and bizarre cinematic effects—including disembodied heads and clapping hands—rapidly changing colour to the constant drum beat.

But Jewett describes the video and the group's earlier releases in general as almost directionless, in a good way.

"*Underwater Cartographer* was basically done for 100-per-cent fun, done for nobody else except us," he explains. "Underwater is a perfect testament to what you can do when you're not caring about anyone else and you're just doing it. There's no anxiety."

When he talks about the band's more recent album, *Population*, Jewett takes a moment to pause before thoughtfully describing how the band of six guys and one girl felt pressured to best their previous

albums for the sake of their growing audience. Pressure, it seems, had amplified since their budding days, with the original line up of pianist Ryan Lenssen and Jewett increasing to include guitarists Nick Greaves, Emma Ditchburn, and Sean Woolven, as well as bassist Simon Lukasevich and drummer Tony Nesbitt-Larking.

"Of course, [there are] all these new pressures: how do you follow up? What's this new sound going to be?" Jewett says, adding that his bandmates then took a tough attitude to tackle the new album. "We're just going to have to go for it again, [and] make it more direct."

A primary subject this post-modern bard found himself addressing was his general concern with the feeling of apathy that he senses has gripped the Western world and overwhelmed the populace.

"Psychology changes in a social group, and that's what we touch down upon: the psychological effects of everything and the one human against," Jewett explains. "It's such a time of peace, and people can live their lives happily and in bliss—there's no willpower anymore because there's nothing to overcome."

"It's a very self-destructive thing, this delving for a deeper meaning behind our lives nowadays, because you don't really have to. You can cover it up with whatever you want: you can watch a movie or smoke pot or fill your brain with tons of music on a little device."

Being the voice crying in the wilderness isn't easy for Jewett. In his search for deeper meaning and truth, he quickly discovered society's dismissive attitude towards independent viewpoints.

"You're just a hyena in a cage full of other hyenas, and you have a sore foot



and you're screaming out, but everyone just keeps on moving along [...] . It's those who have a mental or physical ailment—the broken—that are actually interesting. The ones that are healthy and upright are the ones that are completely oblivious to having any solid opinions or ideals. Instead, they are like a living prototype of a perfect human, and it's scary because it's just there in appearance—they have the success, the phone, the car,

and the house—but if you sit them down and talk to them about what it is to be a human, they'll have no idea, and they'll have no idea how to socialize. They'll just say 'like' a lot."

Despite this worrisome state that has befallen our civilization, Jewett remains ever the optimist.

"As of recently, I've discovered that a lot of things could have happened differently [or] could have been even worse, as far as things go right now.

Like, I could've been born with a shrunken hand or no big toes," he jokes.

His thoughts on the world aside, Jewett promises an entertaining show. He jokingly promises his band's performance will be filled with "pornography—six cocks and one vagina," and thoughts of the audience also have him excited.

"They are going to be partying and horny. I can't wait."

Maher's drowsy debut offers nothing worth waking up for

filmreview

Sleepwalking

Directed by William Maher
Starring Charlize Theron, Nick Stahl, and Annasophia Robb

GARY ALLEN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Sleepwalking, the directorial debut of visual effects veteran William Maher, feels a bit like a bad dream: dream-like in that the focus of the film seems to switch from moment to moment, and bad in that it never really achieves the desired expression of the story.

The film starts out feeling like a made-for-TV movie about single mother Joleen (Charlize Theron) and her daughter Tara (Annasophia Robb). Their onscreen banter is highly entertaining, especially from the latter, whose smart mouth is extremely enjoyable. As Joleen is quickly removed from the central storyline, Tara is perenially dumped upon her uncle James (Nick Stahl), who's left to take care of her. But after he loses his job and Tara is forced into a group home, the two go on the run to James

and Joleen's childhood farm, the site of their unhappy upbringing.

From there, the film moves along in a not altogether unenjoyable manner, but Maher never seems to find his style. The camera work in the beginning is far too close, which not only adds to the TV-movie feel but makes it impossible to visually build up the claustrophobia of the later scenes. There are attempts at using mirrors cleverly, but Maher always gives away the reverse angle without any need for contemplation, thereby making the whole exercise feel very amateur. This is, in fact, a theme for the narrative as well, as *Sleepwalking* is far too explanatory, with characters voicing almost every change in emotion without prompt, making many moments throughout the film cringe-worthy.

There's something strangely mechanical about *Sleepwalking*, as if it's going through the motions of filmmaking without actually achieving it. Certainly the story is quite workable, and both Stahl and Robb create characters that are interesting and intriguing, but the film is missing something. Maher just doesn't capture the story on-screen in a way that engages the audience.

The slow pace of the film should lend itself to creating a slow building mood, but Maher



doesn't capitalize on the pace, and it just feels like another hindrance, as there's no big pay-off for the wait. The frequent fade-to-black, which Maher employs all too often, feel like he simply couldn't decide how to end the scene properly. One can argue that he tried to make a brooding, unhappy, slowly paced film in his debut, but since he didn't succeed in making an engaging movie, much of it just feels like an impediment

to getting the story out.

Sleepwalking is a strange film, one that attempts to capture the dynamics of abusive family relationships. While the way in which the story unwinds this premise is somewhat clever—had it been properly translated to the screen, it would have been much more poignant—the film leaves the viewer with little to ponder, other than the ways in which it failed.

Twelfth Night breathes modern fun into ancient script

theatrereview

Twelfth Night

Runs 27 March-5 April
Directed by Mary Vingoe
Starring Ava Jane Markus, Richard Lee, Jenny McKillop, and Scott Shpeley
Timms Centre for the Arts

ELIZABETH VAIL
Arts and Entertainment Staff

At first glance, this Studio Theatre production of *Twelfth Night* offers nothing new about William Shakespeare's early-17th-century play. There's no attempt to put a particular "spin" on the story, such as transplanting the script to a more recent era in order to demonstrate how the pratfalls, double entendres, agony, and angst of Shakespeare's work still remain relevant today—something the Citadel's recent version of *Macbeth* did with the Second World War. Similarly, the costumes and sets, designed by April Viczko, retain the visuals of the 17th century, with high ruffled collars, puffy shirts, and tights all around.

Though the set and costumes appear to be traditional, however, they have a few added tweaks that give them a deeper nuance, much like the performances themselves. While the set is bare but for a few pillars, they all lean slightly to the right, giving the play part of its skewed, off-kilter tone. The costumes play on exaggerated notions of gender with their brightly coloured, protruding codpieces. One particularly creative outfit is Olivia's gown, which starts out as an all-black mourning garment and is slightly

modified scene by scene to reveal happier colours underneath as she regains her belief in love.

The delightfully off-centre eccentricity of the staging is perfect for the chaotic romance that unfolds in *Twelfth Night*. Viola, played by Ava Jane Markus (a dead ringer for Bryce Dallas Howard) washes up on the shores of Illyria after a terrible shipwreck. Alone in a strange land, she disguises herself as a boy named Cesario and hires herself out as a page to Duke Orsino (Richard Lee), whom she proceeds to fall in love with. The Duke, on the other hand, falls for Olivia (Jenny McKillop), who in turn loves Cesario. This incurs the wrath of Olivia's drunken uncle Sir Toby (Ryan Parker), who was hoping to hook Olivia up with his companion, Aguecheek (Jennifer Fader).

Part of the reason *Twelfth Night* succeeds is because the elegance and tradition in the set and costume design leaves the play's tongue-in-cheek vitality and whimsical exuberance entirely up to the actors to deliver, which they do in abundance.

The performances are, for the most part, flawlessly acted. Shakespeare's words are recited with the speed and enthusiasm of a '30s screwball comedy with a mixture of ancient wit and modern interpretation, such as a blink-or-you'll-miss-it *Brokeback Mountain* reference. Particular attention must be paid to Parker, with his grandstanding portrayal of perpetual lush Sir Toby Belch; Scott Shpeley, who, besides his portrayal of the agile-tongued fool Feste, acts as the production's music arranger and composer; and especially Markus, who injects folly and ridiculousness into a role



KYLER ZELENY

THOU JUST GOT SERVED The graduating BFA acting class is leaving us with their delightful version of *Twelfth Night*.

often played as a straight foil.

The only hitch in the casting is the odd choice of women in roles intended for men. I'm not sure whether this was intended to be ironic—especially in the case of casting Elena Porter as the sexually ambiguous Antonio—or was simply due to a lack of male graduates

in the BFA acting class of '08. Porter as Antonio and Kirsten Rasmussen as Fabian do as well as they can with lowered voices and egregiously fake facial hair, but Jennifer Fader as Aguecheek falls flat. The only truly weak link in the acting chain, she acts not so much like a man (even a dim-witted, meek

one like Aguecheek) as a dumpy child pretending to be one.

However, this is merely a tiny flaw in this otherwise spectacular rendition of Shakespeare's work. The setting may be 17th-century, but the actors inject the story with vitality, humour, and enthusiasm that's entirely modern.

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